

---

# Program Memorandum Intermediaries & Carriers

---

Department of Health &  
Human Services (DHHS)  
Centers for Medicare &  
Medicaid Services (CMS)

---

Transmittal AB-03-099

Date: JULY 18, 2003

---

CHANGE REQUEST 2773

**SUBJECT: Instructions for Fiscal Intermediary Standard System (FISS) and Multi-Carrier System (MCS) Healthcare Integrated General Ledger Accounting System (HIGLAS) Changes**

## **Background**

The Federal Financial Management Improvement Act (FFMIA) of 1996 requires that Federal agencies implement and maintain financial management systems that comply with Federal management systems requirements. In order to comply, CMS will install commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) software that contains modules for general ledger, accounts payable, accounts receivable, budget, procurement, grants, etc. This COTS will be the financial software application that supports HIGLAS. The HIGLAS will replace the benefit accounting processes used by Medicare contractors.

## **Action Requested**

The HIGLAS project is currently in the development phase. The maintainers of the MCS and FISS systems will implement changes into the shared systems and start development of conversion programs and processes during this phase. The changes and programs will not be operative in the production environment. They will not impact the production environment of Medicare claims processing, nor will the payment of Medicare claims be impacted. Only the HIGLAS Pilot Contractors will be impacted by the changes and only in their test environment.

The changes to be implemented for the development of HIGLAS as part of the October 2003 release include changes to the current HIGLAS interfaces that were discovered during the development of the functional and technical design specifications and the reformatting of the HIGLAS interfaces to make them fully X12 compatible. Development will continue for the creation of the conversion programs. Testing of these programs will begin during this release period.

The Beta Test Sites for FISS and MCS will test for successful system creation of outbound interfaces to HIGLAS. The FISS and MCS shared system maintainers plus the HIGLAS Pilot Contractors must test validity of the data and transmission of the HIGLAS interfaces.

**The *effective date* for this PM is October 1, 2003.**

**The *implementation date* for this PM is October 1, 2003.**

**These instructions should be implemented within your current operating budget.**

**This PM may be discarded after October 1, 2004.**

**If you have any questions, contact Maureen Hoppa at (410) 786-6958.**